

Remarks:

Consideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-23 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim 1 was amended by deleting an informality. This change to claim 1 is provided solely for the purpose of satisfying formal requirements or solely for cosmetic reasons to clarify the claim. The change is neither provided for overcoming the prior art nor does it narrow the scope of the claim for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a plurality of independently drivable light transmitters, *said light transmitters generating respective optical signals for respective bits of a digital electrical signal sequence*, said respective optical signals being combined and superposed into an optical signal path; and

a control device distributing the bits between said light transmitters.

The reference *Miller* (US 4,467,468) cited in the German search report as D1 and in the IDS filed on May 9, 2002, states in the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

An optical communication system ... [employing] a combination of time and wavelength multiplexing at the transmitter, and wavelength demultiplexing at the receiver. The transmitter comprises a plurality of lasers or LEDs, each generating a series of short pulses of light at a different operating wavelength. The modulation method employed can be pulse amplitude, pulse width, pulse position or any other type of pulse modulation. These pulses are time-multiplexed for transmission over a common fiber wavepath. At the receiver, a wavelength demultiplexer recovers the original signals.

There is no digitalization in *Miller* and, consequently, there are no "light transmitters generating respective optical signals for respective *bits* of a *digital* electrical signal sequence", as recited in claims 1 and 16.

The reference *Le Coquil et al.* (US 5,353,145), cited in the German search report as D2 and in the IDS, discloses an optical distributor using processing modules, optical couplers, and control means controlling the modules. There is no digitalization in *Le Coquil et al.* and, therefore, there are no "light transmitters generating respective optical signals for respective *bits* of a *digital* electrical signal sequence", as recited in claims 1 and 16.

The inventive concept of the invention of instant application is to generate optical signals for each respective bit of a digital electrical signal sequence thereby generating a digital optical signal sequence. Neither *Le Coquil et al.* nor *Miller* disclose or suggest digitalization of an electrical signal sequence and distributing the bits of the digital electrical signal sequence between various light transmitters.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that neither *Le Coquil et al.* nor *Miller*, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 and 16.

Claims 1 and 16 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and because claims 2-15 and 17-23 are ultimately dependent on claims 1 and 16, respectively, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, consideration and allowance of claims 1-23 are solicited.

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant

MARKUS NOLFF
REG. NO. 37,006

MN:cgm

October 24, 2002

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101

Applic. No. : 10/057,105

Version with markings to show changes made:

Claim 1 (amended). An optical transmitter for generating a digital optical signal sequence, comprising:

a plurality of independently drivable light transmitters, said light transmitters generating respective optical signals for respective bits of a digital electrical signal sequence, said respective optical signals being combined and superposed into an optical signal path; and

a control device [(5)] distributing the bits between said light transmitters.